A SPLENDID GIFT WITH THIS ISSUE!

MARVEL®

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20th June 92
No 122 55p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

1ST PART
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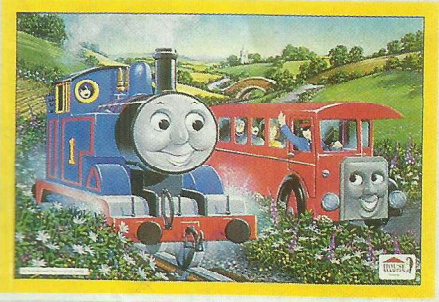
DEKKERTOYS
NEW COMPETITION
INSIDE THIS ISSUE!



A THOMAS FLAG FOR YOU!

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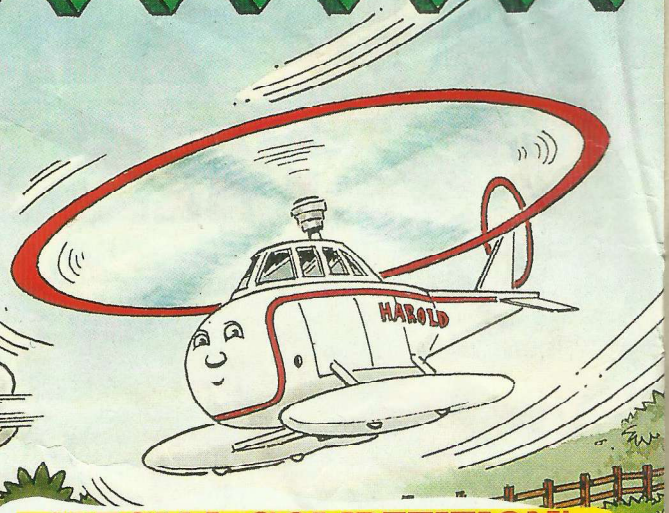
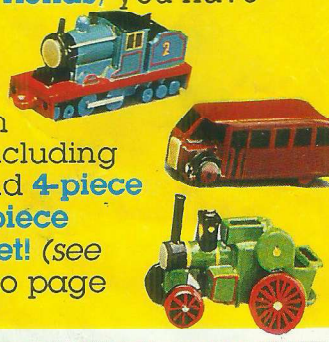
NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! The Island of Sodor can be a very special place to visit. There are so many exciting and interesting things to do and the Fat Controller runs many special events. The Fat Controller's engines also enjoy these events because they are given special tasks to do! In the story that begins on page 3, Thomas is given the most important task to do in the most exciting event of all! Peep! Peep!



SPECIAL COMPETITION!

In this exciting issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**, you have another great chance to win these super prizes from *ERTL (UK) Ltd*, including both **6-piece** and **4-piece playsets** or a **3-piece miniature playset!** *(see opposite)*. Turn to page **14** for details!



FANTASTIC PRIZES!

10 Sets comprising a **Thomas Playhouse, Back Pack, Travel Bag, Duffle Bag, Projector, Picture Blocks, Vinyl toys, Tap-A-Peg, Wipe Away** and a **Humming top** from *Dekker Toys Ltd* must be won in our splendid two part competition! The first part is on **page 7** and the second part will be in our very next issue (123)!

THOMAS ON TV!

Don"t miss more episodes of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends on the ITV Network. "Toby's Tightrope" will be screened on June 9th, and "Edward, Trevor and the Really Useful Party" on June 16th. Episodes will be shown at 3.55pm.

ABC

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controllers Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

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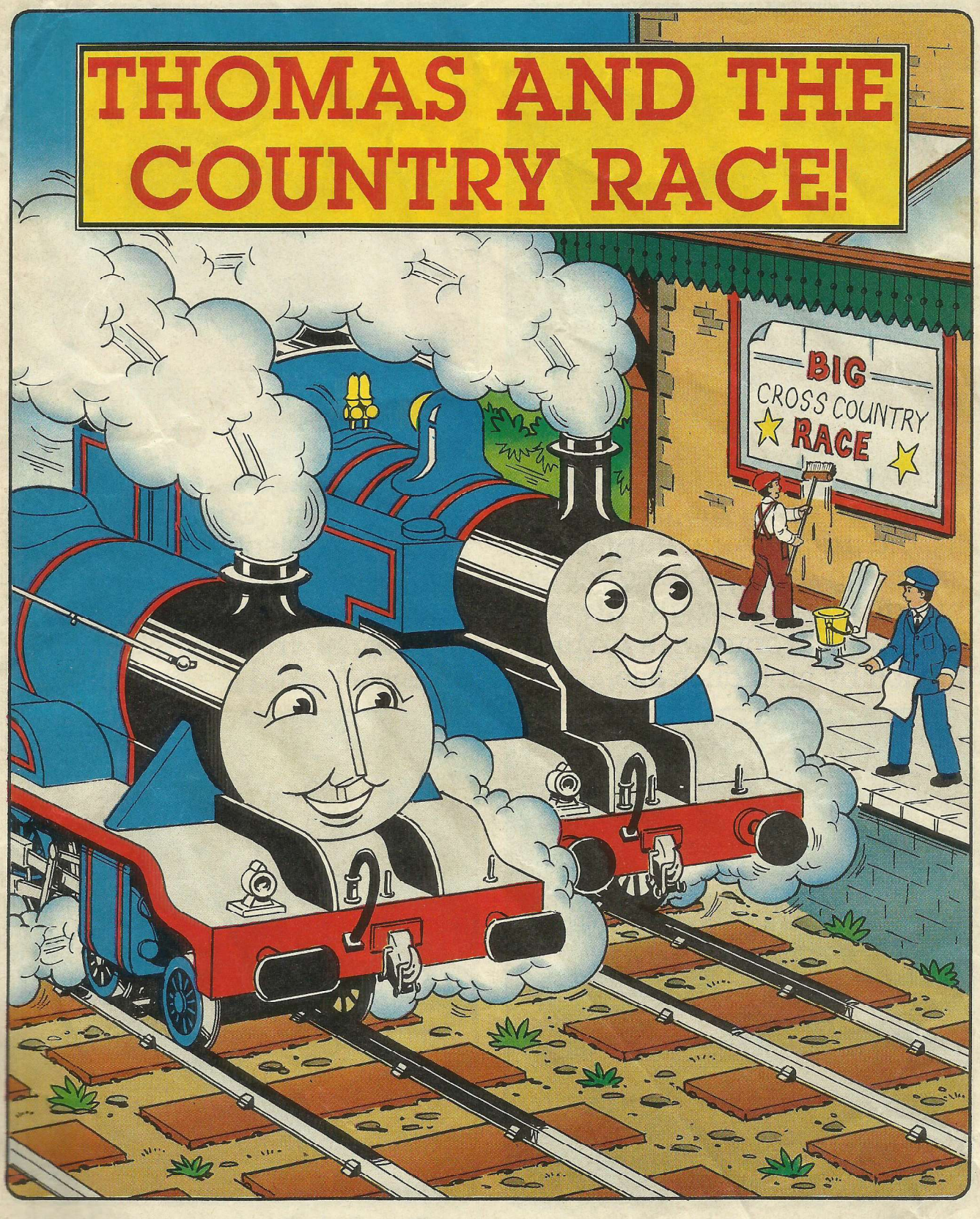
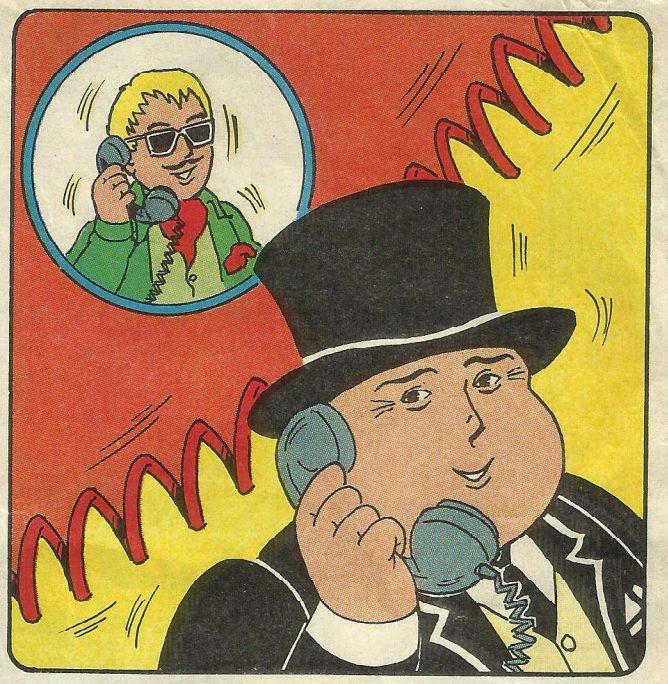
THOMAS AND THE COUNTRY RACE!



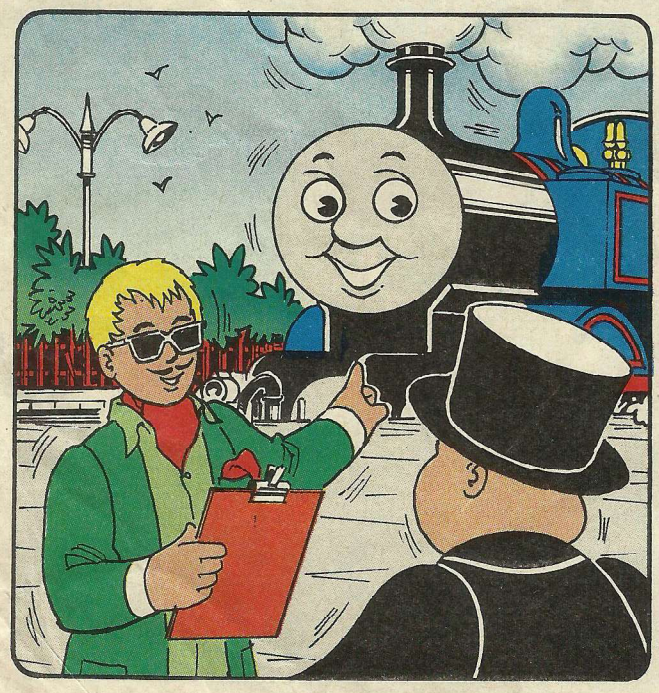
1. One bright day, the whole of the Island of Sodor was very excited. It had just been announced that a big cross country race was to be held at Elsbridge.

2. Thomas and Gordon watched as people busily pasted up posters advertising the race. They both wished they could take part in the race. "I'd easily beat you, Thomas!" boasted Gordon.

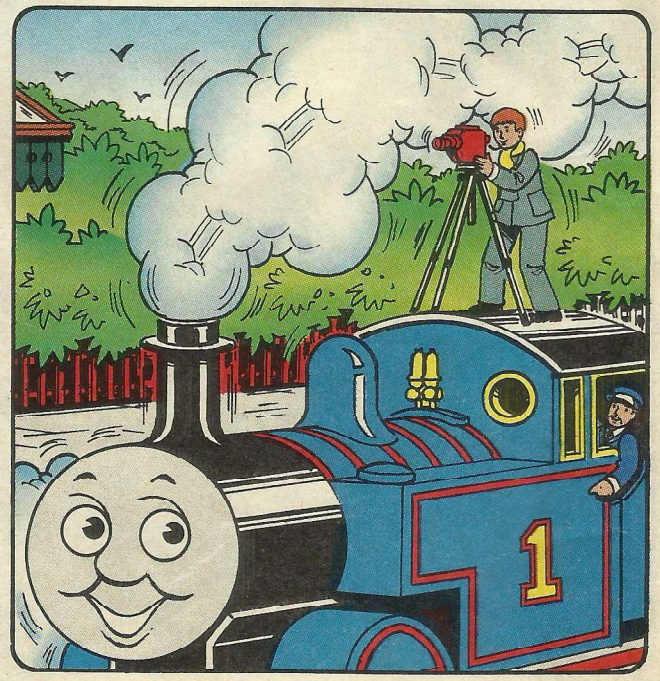
3. All that week, the competitors in the race were very busy exercising and practising for the big day. They would always wave to Thomas when they trained by his branch line.



4. The Fat Controller had received a telephone call from a television station on the mainland. "Could we film the big race from one of the engines?" asked the director.

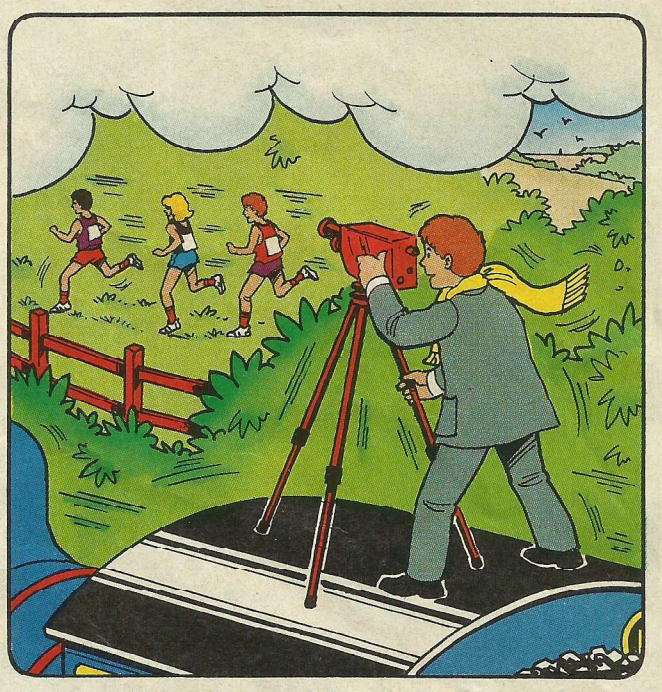


5. The television director explained the idea to the Fat Controller. A cameraman would stand on top of one of the engines and film the race across the countryside.

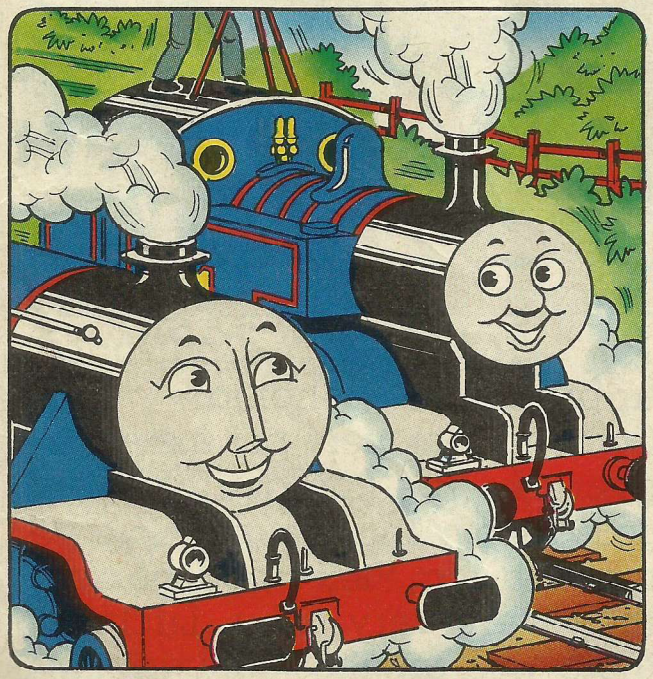


6. The Fat Controller spoke to Thomas right away. "Your branch line runs very near to the race, Thomas!" he said. "You will be the ideal engine to carry the cameraman."

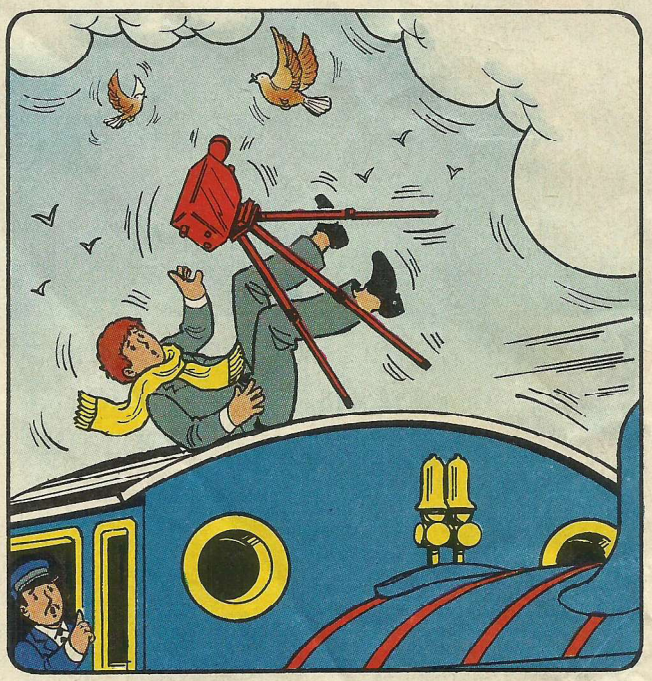
7. Thomas was very excited. The director soon arrived and explained to Thomas that he should move slowly and steadily along the track. Any bumps could jolt the camera.



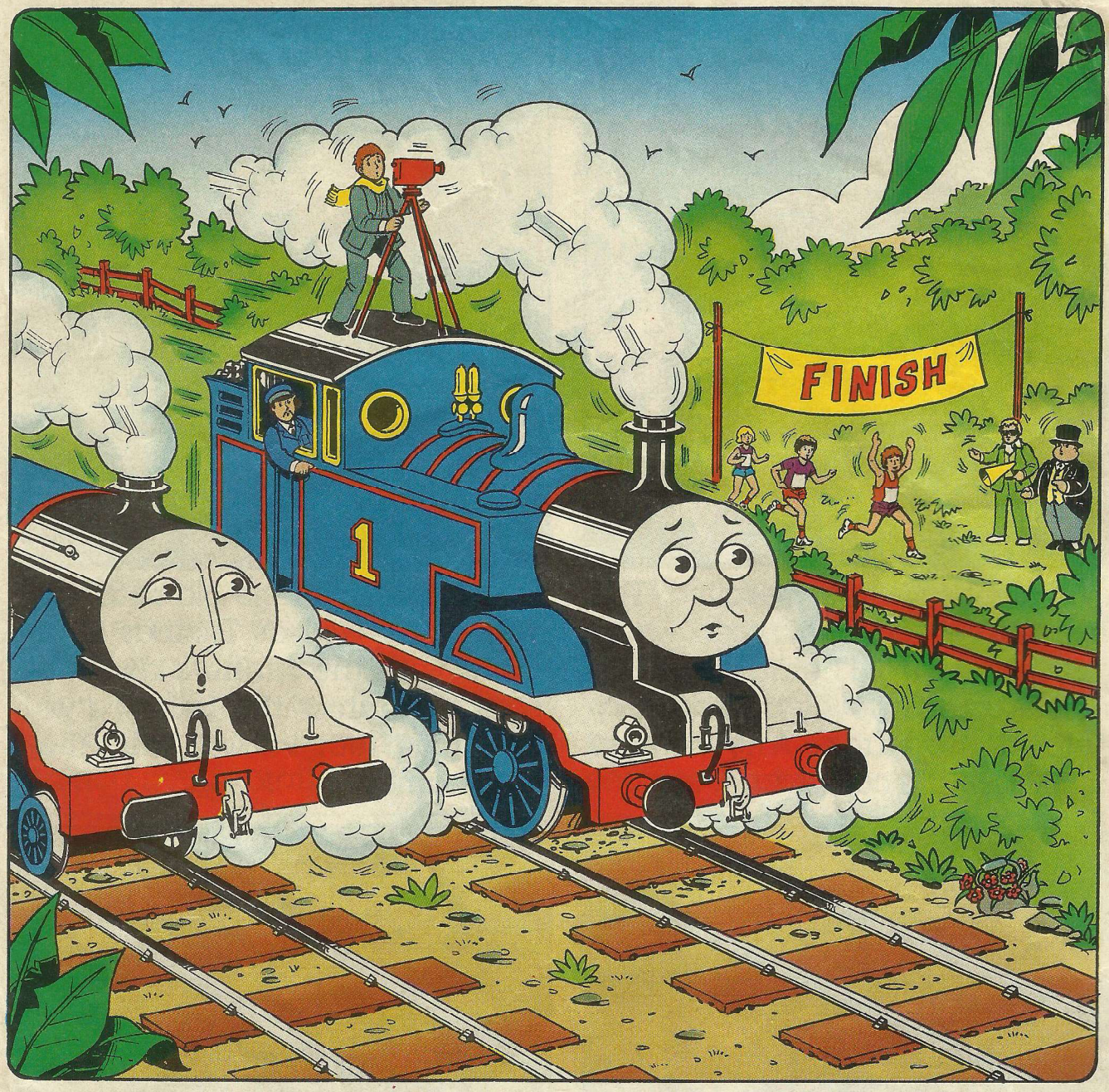
8. On the day of the big race, all was going well as Thomas kept pace with the runners as they sprinted across the fields. "I've got a perfect view," said the cameraman.



9. Towards the end of the race, Gordon pulled alongside Thomas. "Let's take part in our own race," challenged Gordon. "I'll race you to the finishing line, Thomas. I'm sure to win!"



10. Over-excited at the thought of having his own race, Thomas put on a sudden burst of speed, causing the poor cameraman to tumble on to his back and film the sky.



11. Thomas and Gordon steamed along as fast as they could to where the track passed close to the cross country finishing line. "Slow down," called the poor cameraman, trying to regain his balance. "I can't film the race when you're going so fast." But Thomas couldn't hear and rushed on. "I won the race!" Thomas cried happily, as he sped across the finishing line.

12. The Fat Controller approached Thomas and Gordon. "You were not meant to overtake the competitors," he called. Both Thomas and Gordon realised what they had done and they were very sorry. Luckily, there was another cameraman filming the race from the ground so it was recorded and people would soon enjoy watching it on their television sets!

THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas and the playground!

COMPETITION!

Special Competition Token No1.

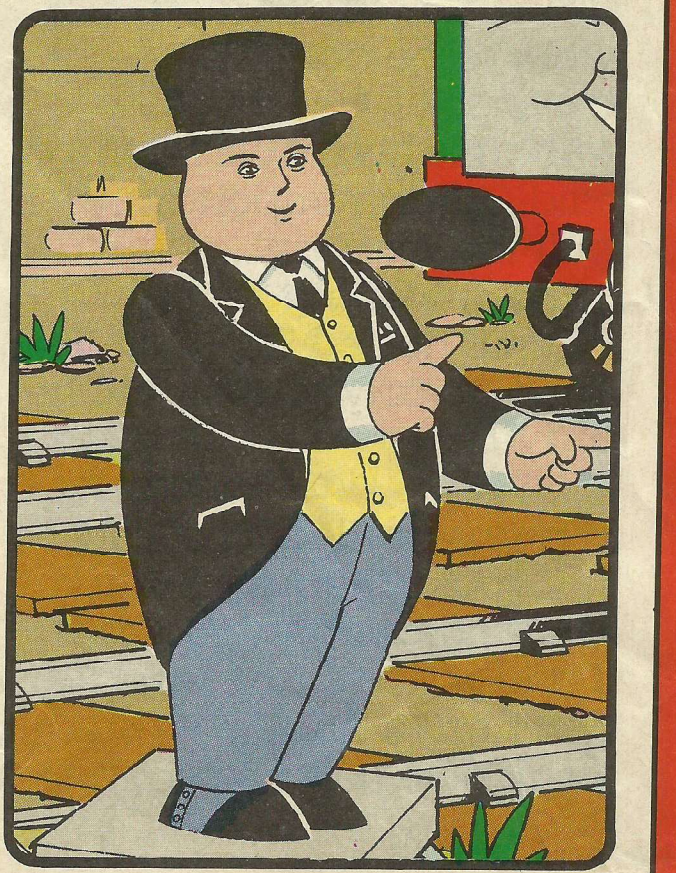
FANTASTIC PRIZES TO BE WON!

This is the first part of a two part competition in which you could win a complete selection of gifts from ***Dekkertoys Ltd.***

The first **10** lucky entrants will receive the following prizes: (see opposite) **Thomas Playhouse, Back Pack, Travel Bag, Duffle Bag, Projector, Picture Blocks, Vinyl Toys, Tap-A-Peg, Wipe Away and Humming Top!** All you have to do for the first part of this competition is cut out the special corner token on this page and keep it safe, until our next issue! The second part will contain another special token, together with a special picture of one of the Fat Controller's engines, for you to colour!

NEWSAGENT'S FORM

Do you often find that **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** is sold out at your local newsagents? Well, here's a way of making sure of your copy every fortnight – just fill in the form below and hand it to your newsagent! He will then order it regularly especially for you!



Dear Newsagent,
Please save/send me a copy of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight! Thank you!

Name .....

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Address .....

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Signature of parent or guardian .....

.....

A Read Aloud story!

WHAT'S WRONG!

It was a fine morning on the Island of Sodor. Thomas woke bright and early, to take the post train along his branch line.

"My driver will be here any minute!" he thought cheerily. Percy's driver entered the engine shed. Then Gordon's driver arrived, followed by James's driver. But there was no sign of Thomas's driver.

One by one, the other engines puffed slowly out of the yard.

"Why are you still here, Thomas?" teased Percy. "Don't you know there's work to be done, lazy buffers?"

"I am always on time!" said Gordon importantly. "I pull the Express!"

"I am waiting for my driver!" huffed Thomas. "I can't go anywhere until he arrives.

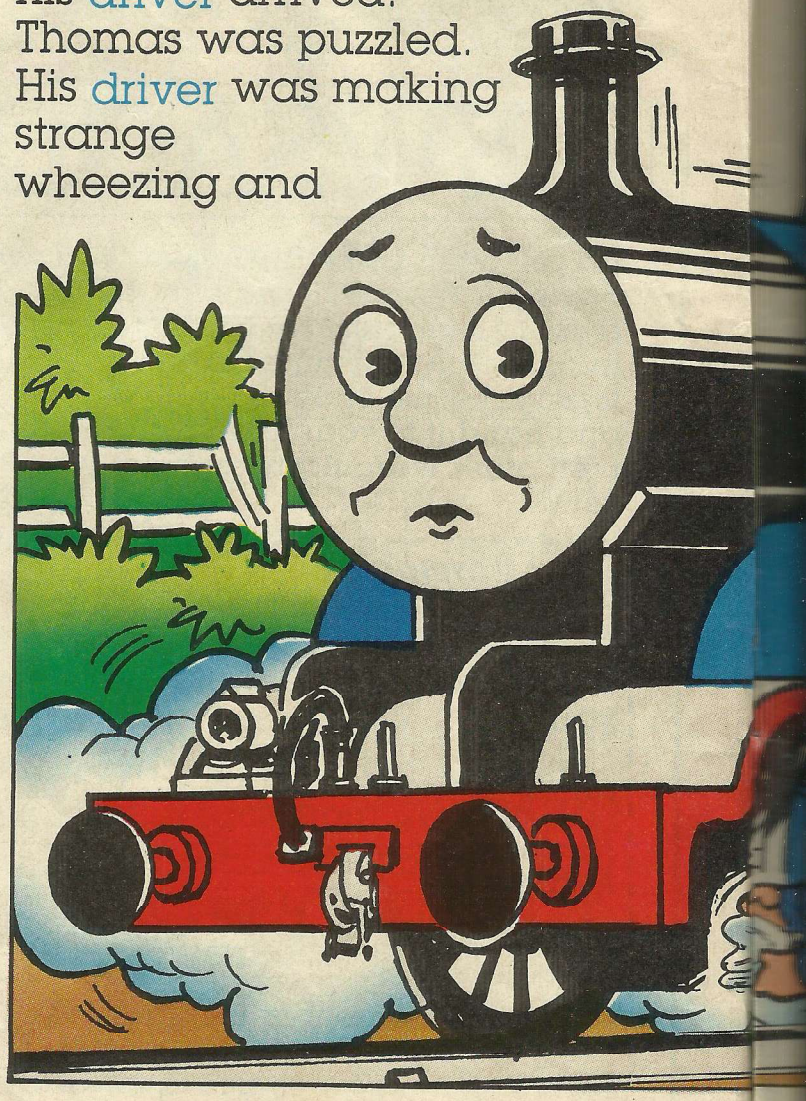
Daisy rolled smoothly past Thomas. "I am a thoroughly modern diesel railcar," she said. "I don't have an old-fashioned boiler to light, before I start work with my driver. It wastes time, I run on diesel. What could be more efficient than that?"

Thomas watched Duck and Henry leave the shed.

"I'm sorry your driver is late, Thomas!" Duck called kindly. Thomas was worried.

"It's very strange! My driver isn't usually late!"

Thomas was left all alone in the engine shed. At last, his driver arrived. Thomas was puzzled. His driver was making strange wheezing and



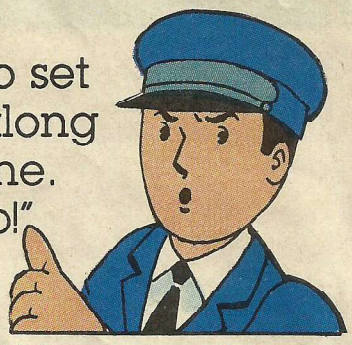
spluttering noises. Tears streamed from his eyes and his nose was very red indeed.

"Gracious!" said Thomas. "Whatever's the matter?"

"I've caught a bad cold!" groaned the driver, in a croaky voice. He held a big handkerchief to his face and sneezed loudly. "A...atchoo!" His whole body shook. Thomas was startled.

"Having a cold sounds awful!" he said. The driver climbed slowly into Thomas's cab. Thomas was still worried about his driver

but he had to set off eagerly along his branch line.



driver

"Peep! Peep!" whistled Thomas. "Faster! Faster! I must make up time!" The fireman shovelled more coal into Thomas's boiler to give Thomas a good head of steam. He raced happily along the track. Suddenly, there was a loud hissing. Thomas felt very strange. He huffed and puffed and began to slow down.

"Cinders and ashes!" he gasped, breathlessly. I'm losing speed. Something must be wrong!

His driver pulled on the brake and Thomas came to a stop. The driver climbed down onto the track to inspect Thomas.

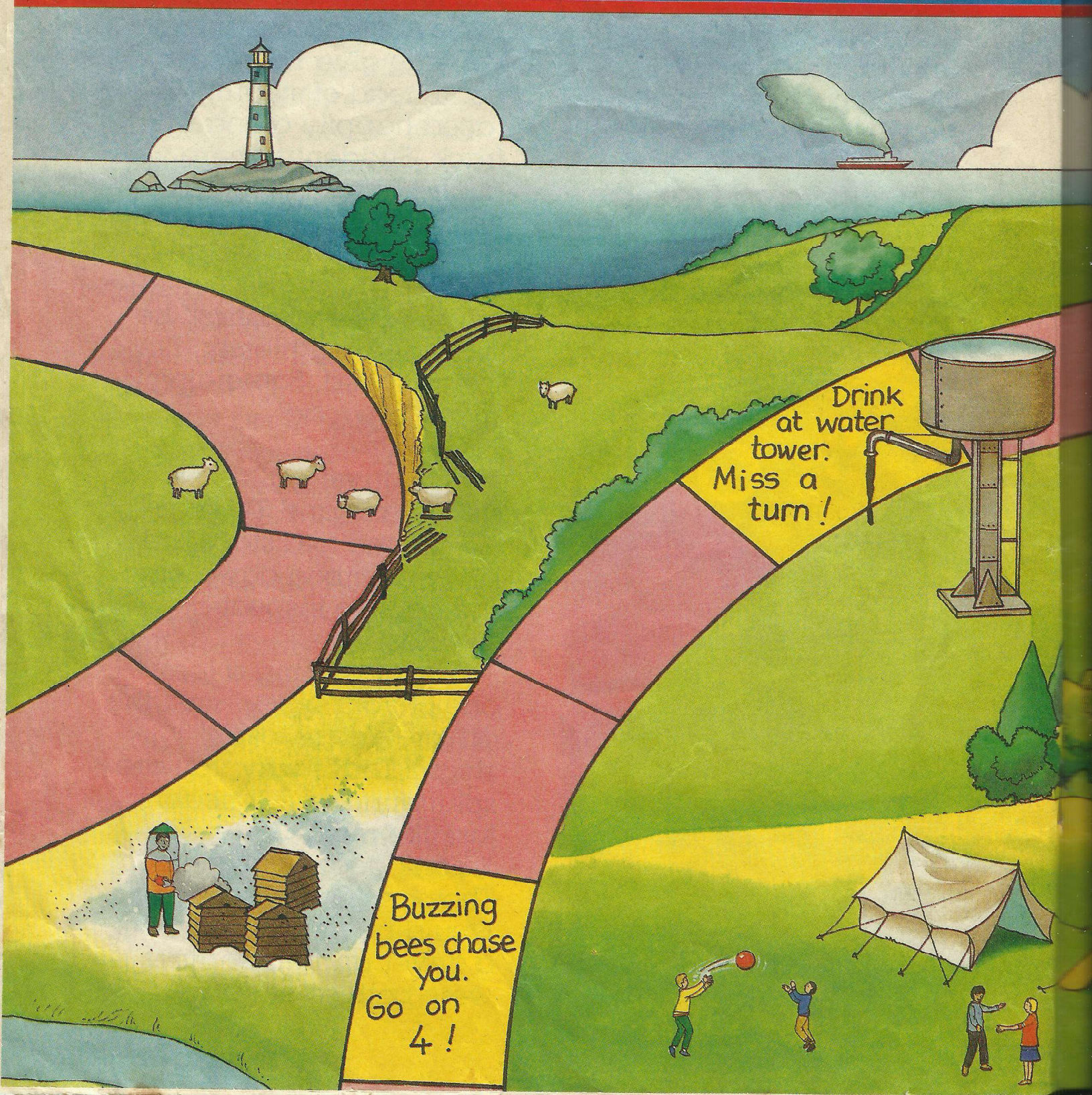
"You've sprung a leak in one of your pipes!" said the driver. "You're losing steam! That's why you are spluttering and wheezing, just like me!"

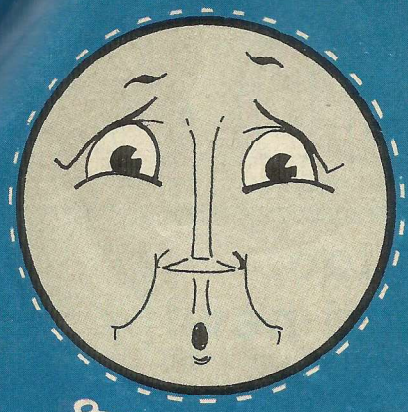
"Thank goodness!" gasped Thomas. "Our passengers would be most surprised if a driver and his engines were both spluttering!"

THE END!

THOMAS'S Game Part 3

This is the third part of Thomas's dice game. You will find the fourth and last part in the next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** and then you will be ready to play! Stick this double page on to thin card, cut out the blue border off along the dotted lines and cut out your third counter.





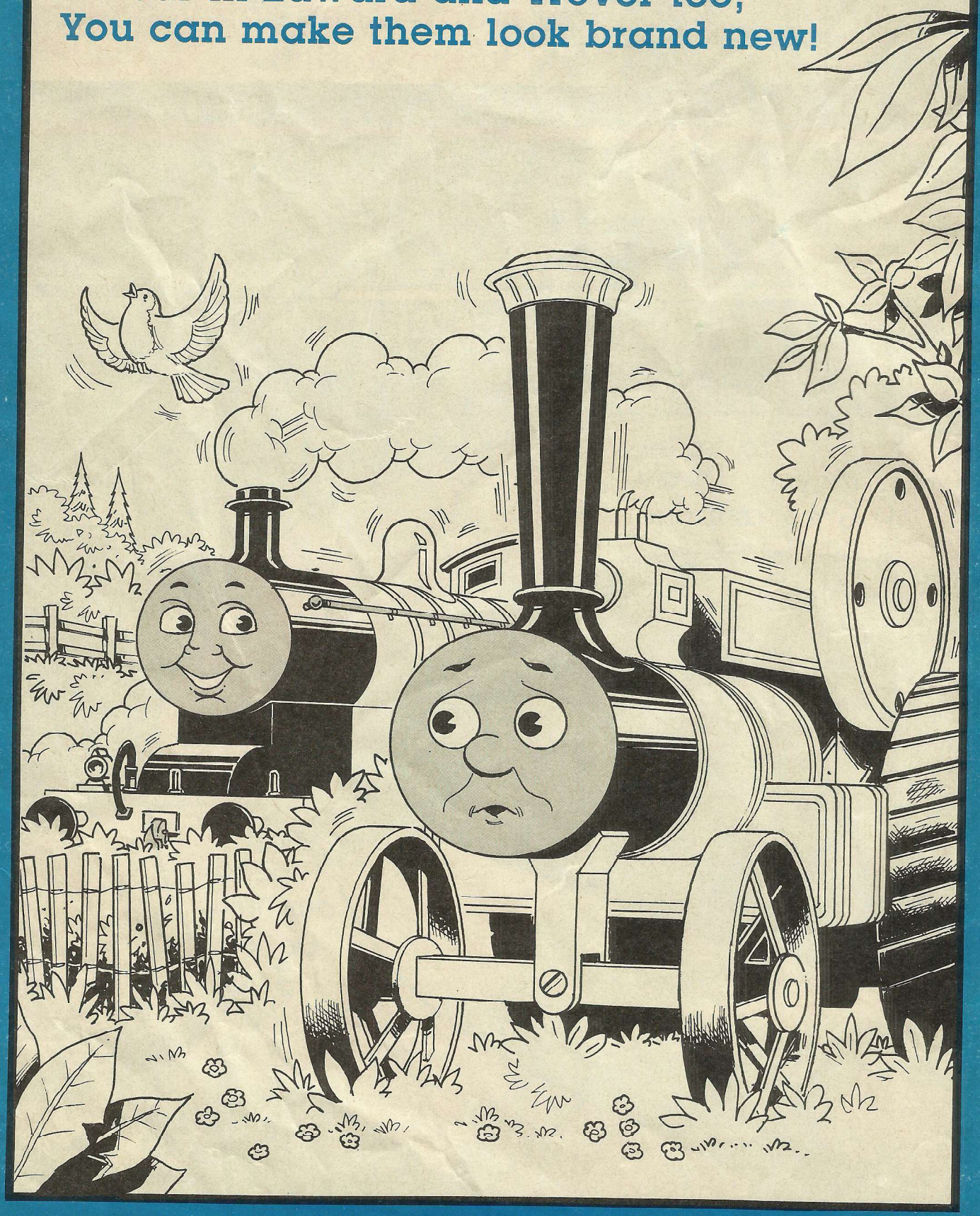
Can you see the campsite?
How many tents can you count?
Point to the watertower!
Can you see the bee-keeper?
How many sheep can you count?
Point to the station!

Stop to collect mayor. Throw a 6 to continue.

Full speed downhill. Go on 3

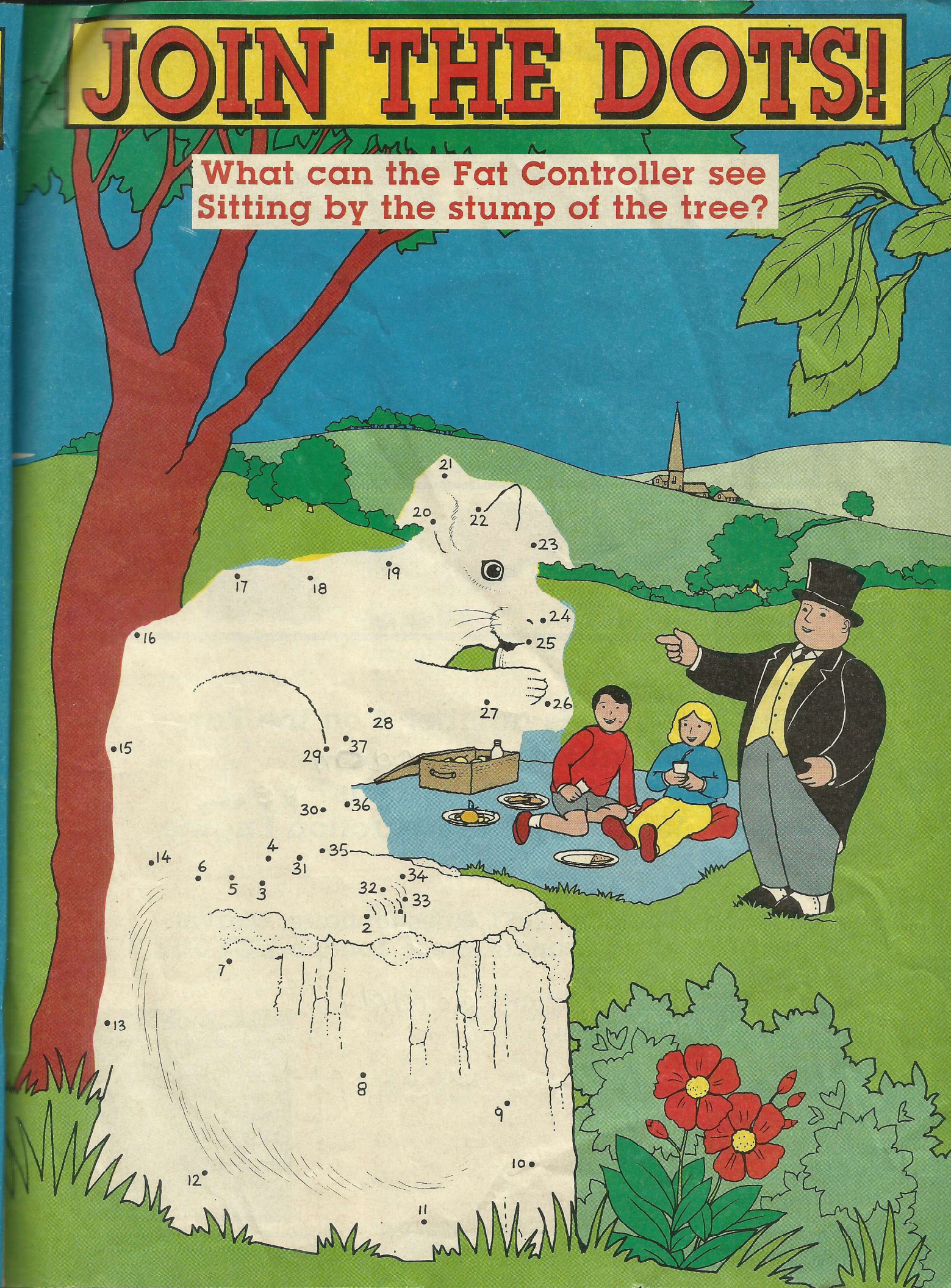
COLOURING TIME!

Colour in Edward and Trevor too,
You can make them look brand new!



JOIN THE DOTS!

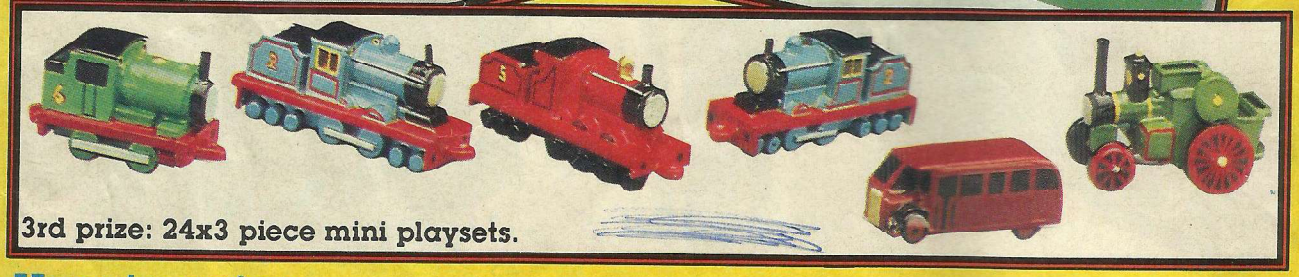
What can the Fat Controller see Sitting by the stump of the tree?



SPLENDID COMPETITION!

1st prize: 12x6-piece playsets

2nd prize: 12x4-piece playsets



3rd prize: 24x3 piece mini playsets.

How to enter:

Answer the following three questions in the spaces provided:

1. Which engine is number 4 on the Fat Controller's Railway? Gordon

2. What colour is Bertie the Bus? Red

3. Where does Trevor the Traction Engine live? _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Now fill in your details in the section below! Then send this page to **Thomas/ ERTL Questionnaire, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX.**

PARENT/~~GUARDIAN~~
MR/MRS/MISS/MS INITIALS..... SURNAME Richards
ADDRESS 70 Agar rd
TOWN..... COUNTY.....
POST CODE.....
CHILD'S NAME Talan SURNAME Richard

BOY ~~GIRL~~
ADDRESS 70 Agar rd
TOWN..... COUNTY.....

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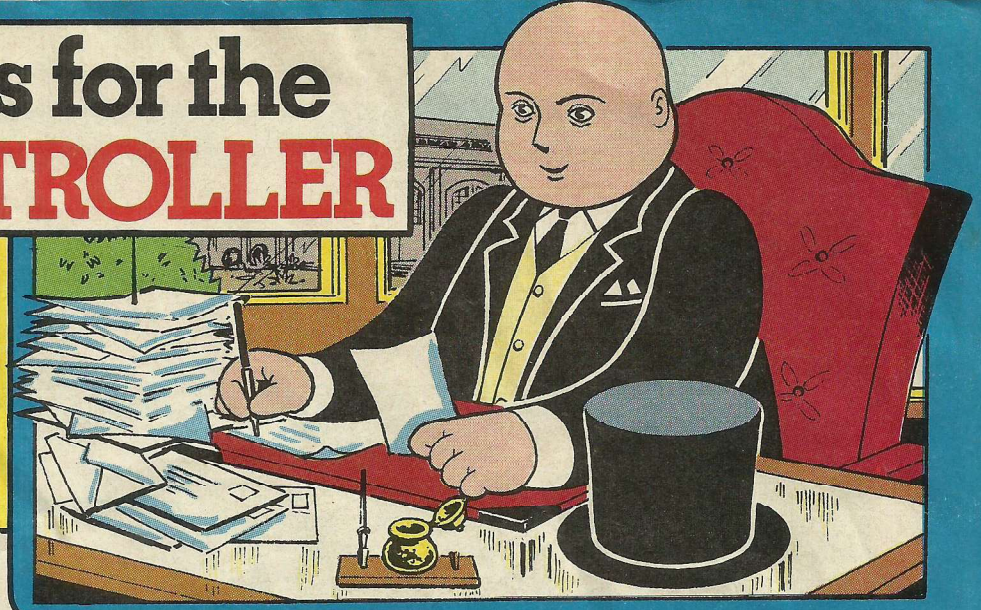
Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd and Marvel Comics Ltd. The editors decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

"Busy Engines!"

"Wake up! The Fat Controller said,
We've got a busy day ahead!
First, we'll have our tea and toast,
Then Thomas must collect the post!
Boco can bring the coals for the fire
While Harold makes sure that none of the engines tire.
Let's sing and have some fun,
For soon all our chores will be over and done!

Love from **Stephen Potter**, aged 3.

I'm sure you will agree that "Busy Engines" is splendid poetry. Now you have won a model train. Do please write again!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid motorised model of Percy from *ERTL (UK)* Ltd.

LOOKING SPLENDID!

Dear Fat Controller,

I like the story called "Looking Splendid!" but I think Thomas became offended when James and Gordon thought that he looked very dirty!

Love from **Ben**, aged 2.

I do agree, Ben! "Looking Splendid" is a very charming story. James and Gordon were very surprised to see Thomas looking very dirty, but it was only because he had worked very hard that day. Normally Thomas is a very smart engine indeed!

JAPANESE ENGINES!

Dear Fat Controller,

I am living in Japan and I read **"Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends"** fortnightly magazine as my granny sends it to me every month. Last week, I went on a Japanese steam engine called the **"Yamaguchi steam locomotive"**

Love from **Charles**, aged 7.

I do believe that the "Yamaguchi" Railway is very similar to the "Bluebell" Railway in England. Many of the carriages have open balconies similar to Toby's carriage, Henrietta!

BIRTHDAYS!

Joshua Ford (36831). David John Evans, Chris Crowder, Thomas Milne (30367), David John Quick (29951), Christopher Durnford (35288), Kathryn Steven (33942), William Dunn (38020), Aaron Robert Jeffrigs (30823), Daniel Andrews, Timothy Gardner (32297), Paul Custerson, Andrew Smith, Mark Brown, Howard. S Newport (13304), Matthew Taylor, Christopher William Liffen, and special greetings to Dean Strachan.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt

The Fat Controller.

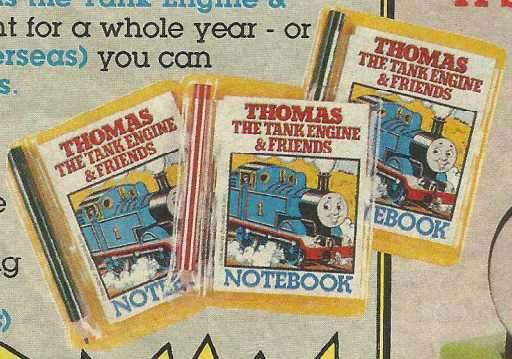
Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

Subscribe!

Subscribe to Thomas's very own magazine and receive a splendid diecast model of Percy from ERTL®

For just £18.00 (35.00 overseas), your child will be sent Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends every fortnight for a whole year - or for £10.00 (£18.00 overseas) you can subscribe for 6 months. Additionally, if you subscribe for a whole year (UK subscribers only) you will receive a FREE Percy diecast model plus a charming notebook and pencil (see opposite pictures) and personalised Fat Controller's Card enabling you to enter offers and competitions frequently open to Fat Controller's Card holders. Simply fill out the appropriate form below!



PLUS JOIN THE THOMAS CLUB... DETAILS BELOW!

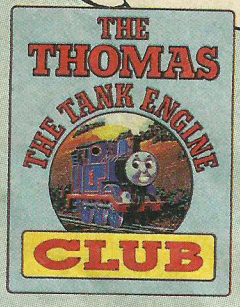
A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!

THOMAS CLUB FORM ▼

SUBSCRIPTION FORM ▼

JUMP ON BOARD!

JOIN THE THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE FAN CLUB



- Bumper Membership Pack
- A birthday card from Thomas
- Further mailings during the year
- Club Newsletter 'The Thomas Times' with each mailing

Send your name, address and date of birth together with your cheque for £9.95 or credit card details to: **Thomas The Tank Engine Club, Dept. Marvel, PO Box 96, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2PO**
or alternatively telephone (0491) 411500 with credit card details.

N.B. For applications from outside the UK, Eire and the Channel Islands, please add £5 to the above price. Only sterling accepted.

ORDER FORM.

6 MONTHS (13 ISSUES) ☐ 20F
12MONTHS (26 ISSUES) ☐ 19R

Please send ..... issues of THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS fortnightly magazine starting with the next available issue.

Child's Name.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
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Date of birth.....Boy/Girl.

PAYMENT (*delete as necessary)
*1. Cheque: I enclose my cheque/postal order for £..... (payable to MARVEL COMICS LTD)
*2. Credit Card: Please charge £..... to my Access/Visa account.

My card number is (13 or 16 digits):

Expiry date.....

Signature.....Date.....

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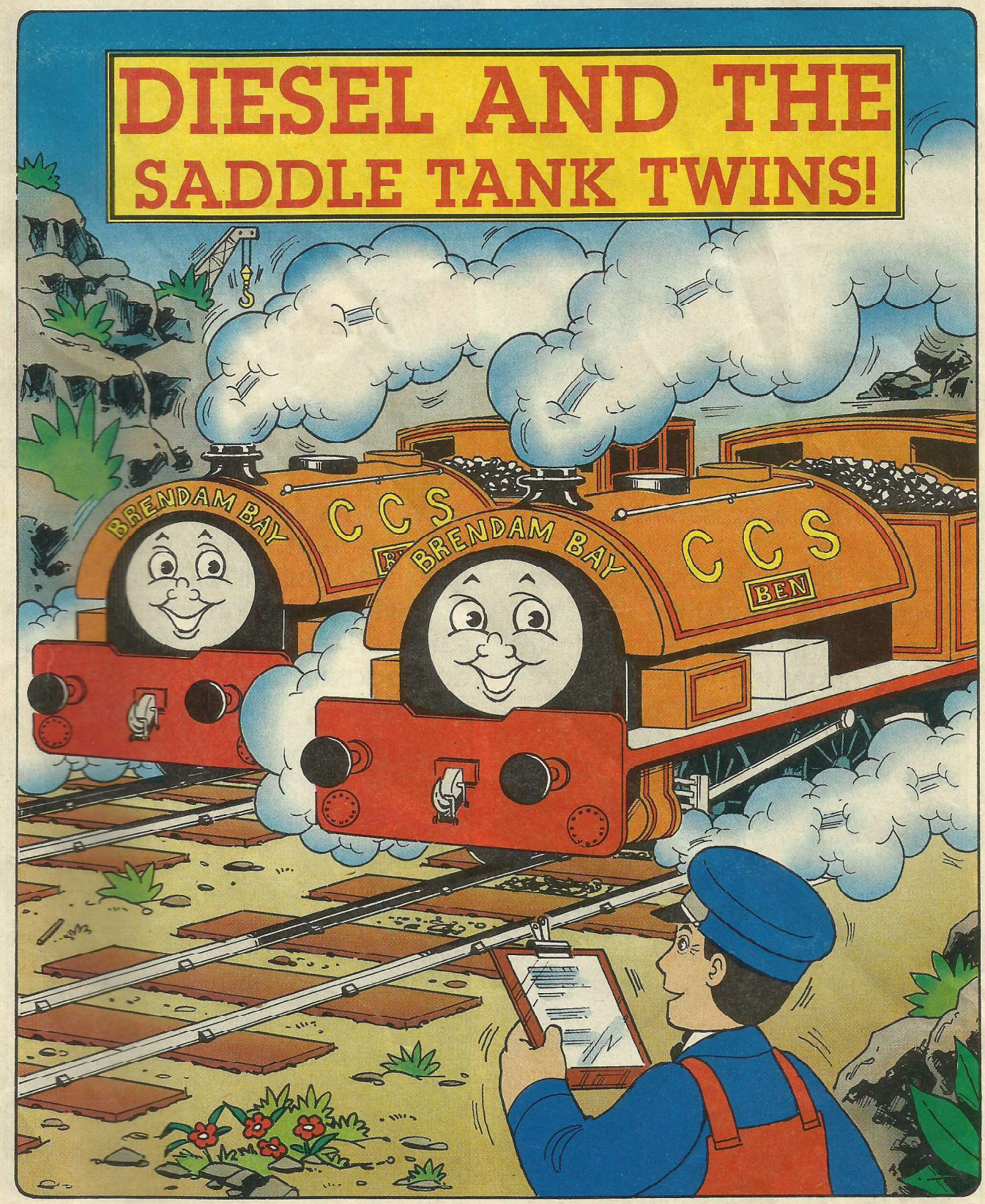
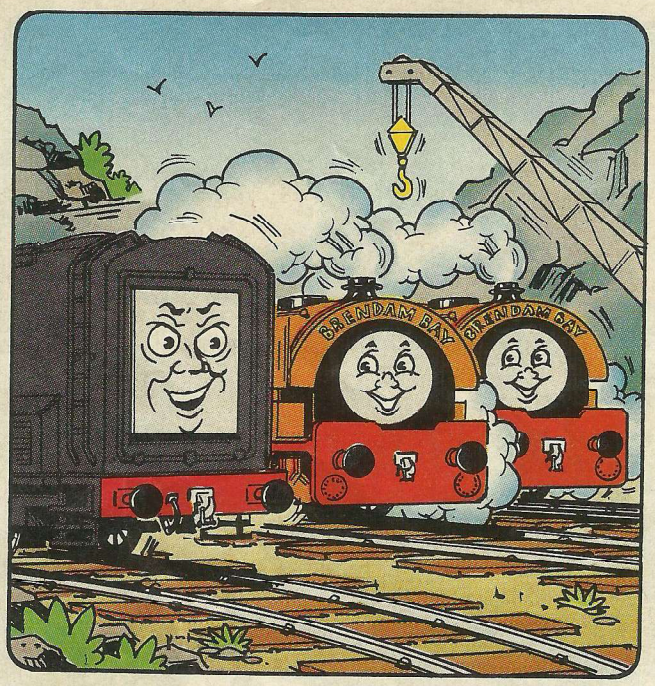
To apply for either subscription please fill out the appropriate section above and send this form, together with a cheque/postal order or credit card details to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester LE99 0AA.**

DIESEL AND THE SADDLE TANK TWINS!

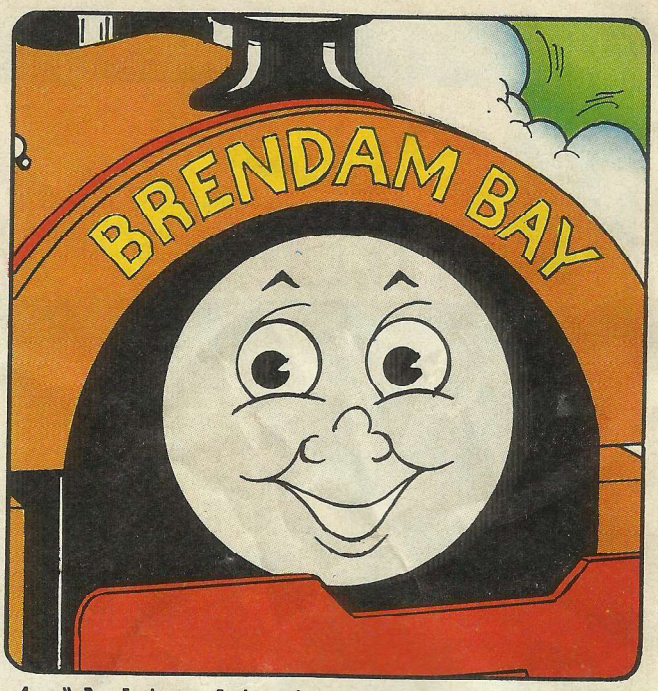


1. Bill and Ben are the Saddletank engine twins who work at the quarry. The twins were busy as a large consignment of china clay had been ordered from the mainland.

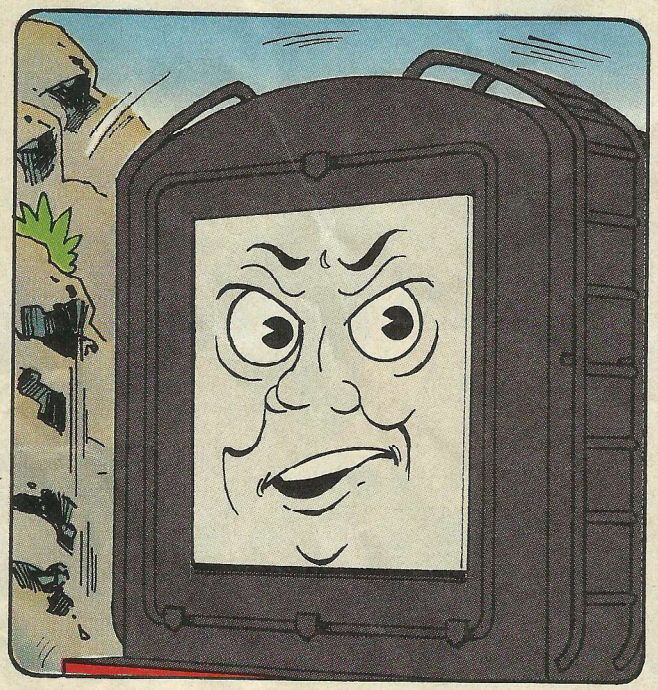
2. The Fat Controller realised that the large consignment of china clay could not be taken to the harbour by Bill and Ben alone, so he arranged for Diesel to help too!



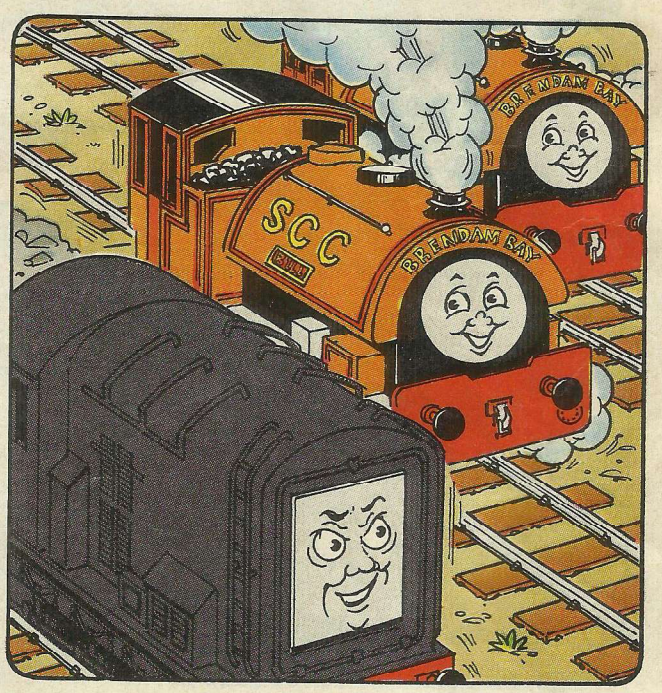
3. When Diesel arrived at the Island of Sodor China Clay quarry, Bill and Ben tried to be friendly. "It's very nice of you to come and help us," said Bill. "It's an important job," said Ben.



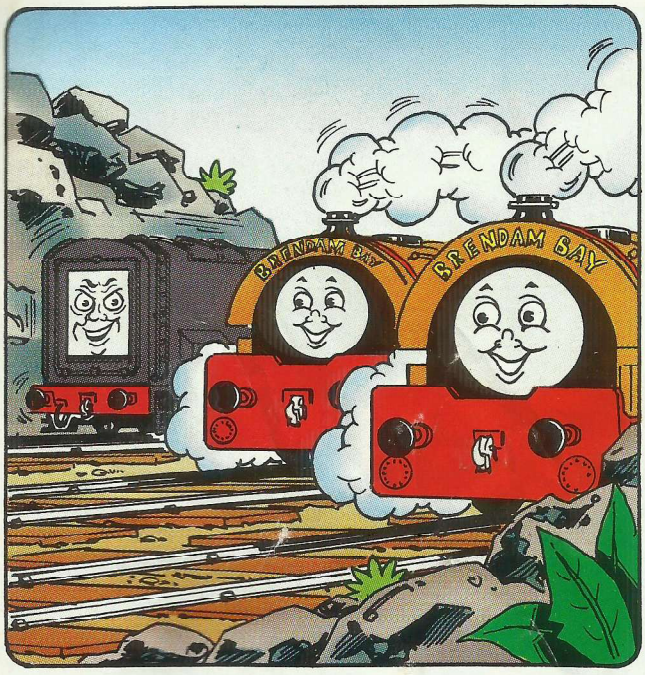
4. "A big ship is waiting for this consignment at the harbour, it must sail tonight!" Bill told Diesel. "We will be working very hard," said Ben helpfully. "You should do the same!"



5. "Work hard!" sneered Diesel rudely. "I am a diesel engine, and I work quickly and efficiently!" As Diesel was so rude, Bill and Ben decided to teach him a lesson.

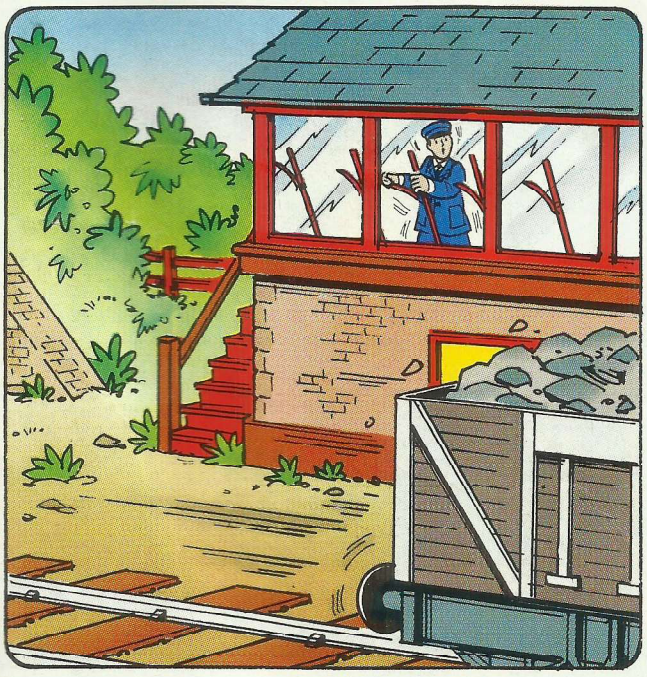


6. "Have you been told about the Middleton Tunnel signal?" Bill asked, as Diesel coupled up to his trucks. "What about it?" asked Diesel. "You should whistle twice to warn the workmen," said Ben.

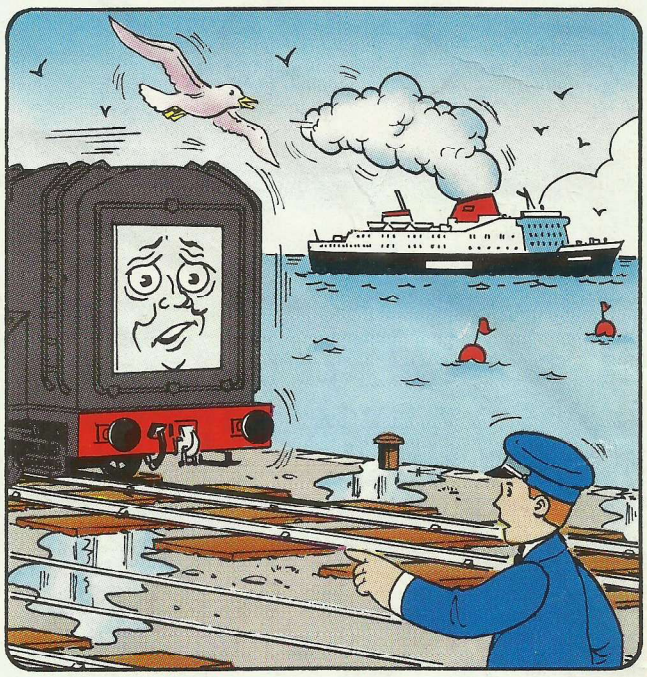


7. Eager to show how much more efficient he was, away surged Diesel. "I'll be there, before you are even coupled to your trucks!" called Diesel. This made the twins snigger.

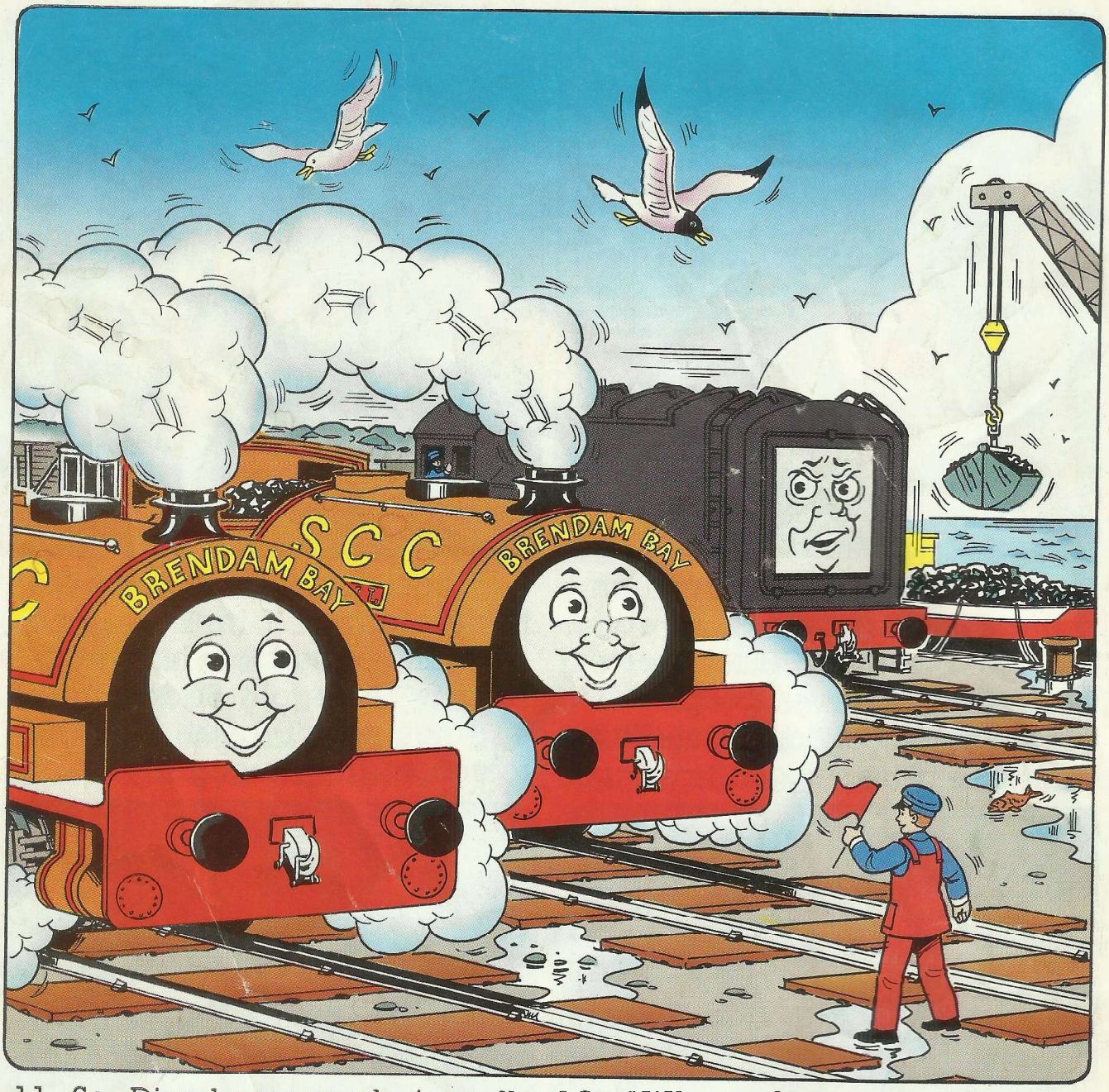
8. When Diesel arrived at the Middleton Tunnel, he remembered to blow his whistle twice. "Those old Saddletank engines won't beat me!" he roared, rushing through.



9. On the other side of the tunnel, the signalman heard Diesel's whistle and pulled a lever. But how surprised he was when Diesel and his trucks went speeding past his signal-box.



10. As Diesel raced to the end of the tunnel, he couldn't see the big ship! "Why have you come here?" Diesel's driver was asked. "This is the Island Ferry Terminal, not the harbour!"



11. So, Diesel was made to pull his heavy trucks all the way back to Middleton tunnel. "I thought you were the Ferry train when you tooted twice," called the signalman, as Diesel passed his signal-box again. When Diesel eventually arrived at the Big Harbour, the big ship was floating at the quayside and Bill and Ben were busy working by the Harbour yard.

12. "Where have you been, Diesel?" teased Bill. "We thought up-to-date, efficient diesel engines never ran late!" chuckled Ben mischievously. "Never mind, we've finished unloading our trucks already. So you can take it slow and steady after all your rushing about!" Diesel did feel silly, when he realised that he had been tricked by the twins once again!

THE END!

In our next issue: The special award!